

MEMORANDUMS
OF
FIELD EXERCISE

FOR THE

TROOPS

OF

GENTLEMEN AND YEOMEN

CAVALRY.

BY AN OFFICER OF LIGHT DRAGOONS.

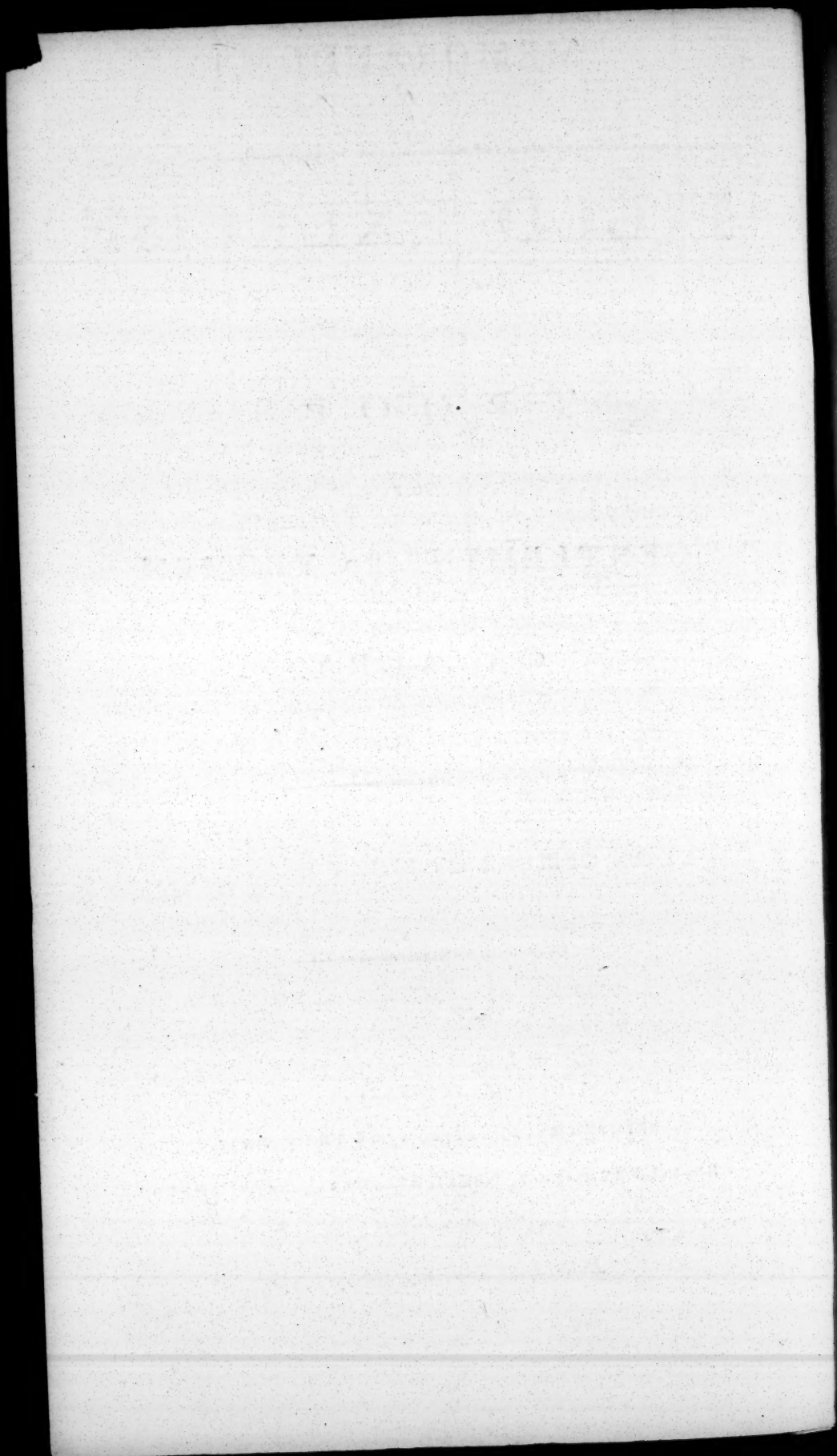
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TO THE GENTLEMEN AND YEOMENRY COMPOSING
THE TROOPS OF VOLUNTEER CAVALRY IN KENT.

AS regularity in the system of military manœuvre alone, is the main spring of the action of troops in the field, and as many of the officers, and most of the gentlemen composing the troops of Yeomen Cavalry have never had an opportunity, (or before the present critical moment had an idea) of making any observations on military movements, the training to arms is found very difficult, as must ever be the case when soldiers are drilled by officers equally uninformed and inexperienced as themselves, and which object as yet has been chiefly assisted by a non-commissioned officer borrowed from some regiment of cavalry, and several troops by serjeants who have been many years invalided ; the former of these assistants not unfrequently make alterations in the regular system of the regiments to which they respectively belong ; the latter introduce a manner of discipline many years since obsolete, and which must appear to a military eye of the present day very curious and odd ; besides, many of these drill masters are from the heavy cavalry, and the idea of this institution being that of a light dragoon, it would appear very ridiculous to see different methods performing in the same body, should they ever be called out to act together ; and as all the troops in a county compose but one corps, such difference in their discipline might produce the greatest confusion, and by
that

that means stop the progress of the whole. One regular mode of exercise for the troops of Gentlemen and Yeomanry, at present, may not be found very unacceptable. The following, if it does not improve, cannot produce evil consequences in any corps ; and it is humbly hoped that it will not be deemed impertinent in so young a soldier to offer for public inspection the following remarks, which are compiled and made at the particular request of many of his friends belonging to the Yeomen Cavalry, who wish that one uniform regulation should be adopted. The endeavour has been to give every particular in the fullest and plainest manner, that the most inexperienced in military business may clearly comprehend, and give proper instructions from the perusal of them ; and that the exact situation of the different parts of the troop or Squadron may be better understood, PLATES are annexed, explanatory of several movements in the evolutions. If the following pages escape the censure of older and more experienced officers, and answer the purpose for which they are intended, to the satisfaction of the Gentlemen and Yeomenry, they will most amply gratify and repay the truly anxious wishes and endeavours of their

most obedient and

Canterbury,

most humble servant,

Feb. 28, 1795.

AN OFFICER OF LIGHT DRAGOONS,

OBSERVATION.

AS the dress of the Volunteer Cavalry is already fixed, the only alteration, or rather addition, which may be made, is a curb chain, covered with black leather fixed to the bit head-stall, to prevent a sword cutting the top of the bridle in two, and by that means depriving the rider of the power of managing his horse, and rendering him, as an equestrian, totally useless, as the bit would immediately fall from the horse's mouth. An entire head-stall and rein may indeed be made for the bridoon, of a light jack chain covered with leather, and is not so heavy as the imagination may represent it.

Most of the gentlemen who compose the Volunteer Corps, being generally in the pursuit of their professions, it may not be amiss for them to have a pair of overalls, made of strong thick woollen cloth, the inside of the thighs and legs covered with black leather, to prevent them from

too soon wearing out, and from the friction of the stirrup leather ; they should be buttoned down the outside of the thighs, and have straps under the feet, to prevent them from riding up. These overalls are extremely convenient in cold or bad weather, and particularly so for the Gentlemen and Yeomanry who may be called out at a short notice, as any kind of boots or breeches may be worn under them. They can be made of the best materials at 10s. 6d. per pair. Those troops who wish to adopt them, will find it answer to have all the cloth from the same place, as that will be the means of having the colour uniform.

The clubbing of the hair, for volunteers always upon the alert, may be found rather tedious, and can hardly ever be uniform, as they are not supposed to be in the habit of dressing their hair in a military manner, and many have their hair short, so that one man with a club hanging down his back, and another with a round curl in his neck, must appear to great disadvantage, as it would entirely take away from the uniformity of the upper part of the body ; but if the hair was plaited close behind, and turned up under the hat with a comb, it would bring the appearance of the shoulders to be much more regular.

When

When a volunteer is called out for action, he ought to take as few things with him as possible, and sufficient merely to supply the wants of absolute necessity ; besides the cloaths he turns out in, two shirts, a pair of strong worsted stockings, with a pair of flannel drawers, a flannel waistcoat with sleeves, a strong pair of shoes, a curry comb and brush, mane comb, sponge and picker, will be enough for the convenience of any man : They should be neatly and carefully packed up in a small oblong leather bag, and firmly fixed by three straps upon the pad, with the horse cloth and a thick blanket folded up to the same size, strapped above it ; the surcingle will answer as a roller for the horse cloth. The cloak should be rolled long, and fixed to the pommel of the saddle, it will there ride easy for the horse, and be a most excellent safeguard for the thighs, against a carbine or pistol shot. Worsted gloves and plush breeches are recommended, as in all weathers they are comfortable and fit for use. Besides the above, the fewer things a soldier takes, the better, as he will have enough to employ his attention without ideal luxuries.

Black belts might be found more convenient than white ones, as the latter for gentlemen not accustomed to the manner of cleaning military

appointments, may occasionally be out of order, and if they are called out in a hurry may prove un-uniform. Any thing a soldier can wear, that is useful and uniform, must look well, as the action, not the finery of a soldier, ought to be most particularly the object.



N O T E.

The arrows in the plates shew the direction of the movements : the dotted divisions in plate I, represent the first position (except in figure 5) ; the strong marked ones the second ; the broad lines always express the front.

ASSEMBLING.

ASSEMBLING.

WHEN the troop assembles on the ground of exercise, the first thing to be done, is, the

“ TELLING OFF,”

which is in the manner following: first,

“ BY FILES.”

The ranks are to be formed at close order, and the right man of the front rank throws his bridle into his right hand, turns round to the left, leaning on his cloak * with the left hand, and says distinctly to the man exactly covering him in the rear,

* On common exercising days, when no saddle bags, horse cloth, or blanket is brought out, the cloak may be neatly lapped to about 22 inches in length, and fixed on the pad with three straps at equal distances.

“ NUMBER ONE ; ”

which by his covering man is to be repeated, that there may afterwards be no mistake in the movements of the odd and even files ; so on with the next file towards the left, as Number Two, *Number Two* ; Number Three, *Number Three* ; &c. &c.

When the troop is thus told off by files, the next thing to be done is, the telling off by

SUBDIVISIONS, (that is by 3's.)

As in a troop of 50, there can be but 46 men to act in the ranks, three being officers, and one the trumpeter, there will be seven subdivisions, and two files over, which are to act as a subdivision. Numbers 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, in the front and rear ranks, are the right hand men of subdivisions. Numbers 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 23, the left hand men. All turnings by subdivisions are to be upon their own centre.— Then by

“ QUARTER RANKS.”

As there are 23 file, the best way will be to leave the left quarter rank with the file short, to pay the compliment to the right ones, as marching is generally by the right ; and if occasion
should

should require the disposition to be made from the left, the difference of one file is of no great consequence.

Numbers 1, 7, 13, 19, in the front and rear-ranks, are the right-hand men by quarter ranks. Numbers 6, 12, 18, 23, are the left-hand men by ditto. Then by

“HALF RANKS,” (or half-squadrons)

allowing the deficiency as in the quarter ranks to remain on the left. Numbers 1, and 13, will be the right of half ranks, or (half squadrons); Numbers 12, and 23 the left. Thus by

SUBDIVISIONS, (8 in number.)

1,2,3	4,5,6	7,8,9	10,11,12	13,14,15	16,17,18	19,20,21	22,23	R. Rank
1,2,3	4,5,6	7,8,9	10,11,12	13,14,15	16,17,18	19,20,21	22,23	F. Rank

QUARTER RANKS, (4 in number.)

1,2,3,4,5,6	7,8,9,10,11,12	13,14,15,16,17,18	19,20,21,22,23	R. Rank
1,2,3,4,5,6	7,8,9,10,11,12	13,14,15,16,17,18	19,20,21,22,23	F. Rank

HALF RANKS.

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23	R. Rank
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23	F. Rank

After the squadron is told off in the above manner, by the officer commanding, the odd files of front and rear, ought by word of com-

mand to hold out their right arms, that they may not afterwards make any mistakes, then drop them, and the even files should do the same, and so on by right and left of subdivisions, quarter-ranks, and half-ranks.

When a squadron or troop is drawn up for exercise, the distance of files ought to be exactly nine inches from boot top to boot top.

Instead of (as formerly) dressing the squadron or troops by the words "by the right dress, &c." by the King's late order the words are now, "*Eyes right*,"—" *Eyes left*,"—" *Eyes center*,"—" *Eyes front*,"—which last is always to be given previous to the drawing or returning of swords in parade, when a non-commissioned officer is to gallop out about ten or twelve yards to the front of the center file, and from him the time for such motions is to be taken; when the motion is completed, he should go briskly back to his place, but when it is not in parade, swords may be drawn or returned, either by "*Eyes right*," or "*Eyes left*," to whatever flank they are dressing, as the commanding officer may think proper, by a non-commissioned officer advancing one horse's length straight in front. The motions of drawing and returning swords, in general vary a good deal. Most regiments do it agreeable to the manner esteemed by the commanding

manding officer the most graceful and expeditious. The following may prove as elegant and quick a way as any practised : before the word is given, the commanding officer should inform them to what point they are to dress, as

“ EYES FRONT.”

“ DRAW SWORDS,” (3 motions.)

Observe that in all words of command, the same stress ought not to be put on each word in the sentence, but that the whole, except the last word should be repeated in a strong, clear, and regular tone, and not too fast ; and the last word pronounced very plain and remarkably quick and firm, as all the sentence but the *last word* is intended as the caution, (the *last word* for the action). At the word

“ SWORDS,”

the right hand is to be thrown briskly across the body, over the left arm, and immediately to seize the handle of the sword, at the same time loosening it from the scabbard, by drawing it out about two inches, and there wait ; the second motion is drawing it quickly out, and bringing it perpendicular, opposite to the right breast, the finger nails being turned towards the body, that
the

the sword may have its right side flat to the front, and be steady : The third motion is by dropping the right hand smartly down, turning the knuckles and the edge of the sword to the front, the hand opposite the right hip bone, and the sword sloping to the left, parallel to the body, and before the point of the left shoulder.

“ RETURN SWORDS,” (5 motions.)

First, bring the right *wrist*, (with the finger nails and left side of the sword next the body) touching the left breast : Second, with a turn of the wrist (but keeping the arm quite steady) pass the flat of the sword neatly down by the outside of the left arm, and put the point about an inch into the scabbard, and wait there *: Third, push the sword quickly down to within two inches of the bottom of the scabbard, steady : Fourth, put it in altogether, quickly : And fifth, bring the right hand briskly back, and let it hang easily down by the thigh.

When swords have been drawn any considerable time, it may not be amiss for the relief of the arm to

* In this motion great care must be taken that the point be kept back, that there may be no danger of its injuring the face of the next man to the left.

“ EASE

“ EASE SWORDS,”

which is done in the following manner : Drop the right hand down so that the wrist may rest on the fore part of the hip, and the sword hilt bearing between the thigh and the bearskin flounce, the back of the sword to rest upon the flat of the right shoulder ; at the word

“ CARRY SWORDS,”

the proper position is to be instantly resumed.— When swords are not drawn, the right hand may occasionally make use of the bridoon.



Note : *A light dragoon horse takes up about eight feet of ground in length, and three feet in breadth when his rider is upon his back.*

OF ORDER.

OPEN ORDER, is when the squadron or troop is drawn up for inspection; the distance between the front and rear ranks should be exactly equal to half the front of the squadron.

ORDER

is equal to one fourth of the front of the squadron.

CLOSE ORDER

is equal to one eighth of the front of the squadron.

CLOSE TO THE CROUP

is as close as possible, without touching the tails of the front rank horses, and serves to give great weight to the charge.

In

In dismounting, the rear rank should always be reined back to order, and at the word

“MAKE READY TO DISMOUNT,”

the even files (which in mounting and dismounting are termed the doubling files) of front and rear rank, rein backwards, so as to clear entirely the croups of the odd files, which are to stand fast.

“DISMOUNT.”

Taking the time from the man in front, they throw a lock of the mane into the left hand, at the same time quit the right stirrup, and place the fore finger and thumb of the right hand upon the pommel of the saddle, and wait there. The second motion is bearing upon the left stirrup, assisted by the right hand, bringing the right leg clear over the cantle of the saddle, letting it hang down by the left leg, and shifting the right hand from the pommel to bear upon the center of the cantle, the fingers towards the croup, and the thumb towards the seat of the saddle. In this position the body is to be kept perfectly upright, the shoulders well back, the breast out, the belly in, without constraint, the back hollow, the thighs and legs together,

together, and the head turned to the front over the left shoulder.

Third motion, drop the right foot to the ground, quit the left stirrup, step briskly up to the horse's head, dressing to the front, holding the bridoon rein about three inches from the horse's mouth with the right hand,* the left hanging easily down by the thigh, the thumb touching the seam of the breeches; the shoulders are to dress in a line with the horse's head, the heels together, the toes turned out to an angle of 60°, the knees well back, and the figure perfectly upright and steady, but without stiffness. If linking is intended, the collars are to be untied before dismounting, and left by the off side hanging on the horse's neck, then taking the time from the man in front, they bring their horses up into their places in the ranks, the men dressing to the front. At the word

“ LINK ”

the right of the center step out with their right feet, and the left of the center step back with their right feet.

* The regulars who have carbines, go to the off side of the horse, but as the Volunteers have none, it is more natural to remain on the near side.

“ HORSES.”

“HORSES.”

The right go to the left about, the left to the right about, and with the greatest attention link the horses securely, by running the collar strap through the ring of the collar of the next horse to the right, and fixing it firm to the ring of the second horse. One man will be sufficient to take care of eight or ten horses, if he pays proper attention in walking backwards and forwards before them, that no one hangs back, or attempts to lie down; four or five men will be sufficient to keep a troop of linked horses steady, when the horses are all linked. At the word

“TO THE FRONT FACE.”

the left half-rank faces to the left about, by bringing the right heel up to the ball of the left foot, and turning quickly round upon both heels; the third motion is to bring up the right foot, and remain steady, the toes being at an angle of 60° , and dressing to the right, viz. the center of the squadron; the right half rank is to come to the right about, by placing the ball of the right foot back to the left heel, raising the toes a little, and coming round briskly upon both heels, when the right foot is to be brought back to form by the toes an
angle

angle of 60° , and dressing is by the left, when the word

“DISMISS”

may be given; the proper men appointed to take care of the horses, to remain attentive to their respective charges.

I shall say nothing of forming or marching on foot, as the idea of the present institution, is only to act on horseback, and consequently the rules for mounting and dismounting are sufficient to insert here, being useful for easing the men or horses from time to time. I have first explained dismounting, as they all come ready mounted to the field. When the commanding officer wishes to remount his squadron, he orders them to

“STAND TO THE HORSES,”

when each man falls in before his own horse, dressing to the front.

“MAKE READY TO MOUNT.”

They take the time from the man in the front, the right half rank goes to the left about, and the left half rank to the right about, unlink their horses, throw the collar up over the withers, by the off side; the doubling files rein their horses back;

back ; the left feet of the whole are to be placed in the stirrups and right hands on the cantles of the saddles, dressing is to the front. At the word

“ MOUNT,”

the whole are to spring up and get into their saddles together, when the collars are to be again tied up.

The following is the proper method for mounting : first, face the shoulder of the horse, divide the bit rein with the third finger of the left hand, and let the bridoon rein lay in the whole hand, divided from the bit one with the little finger on the near side, and the fore and middle ones on the off ; with the right hand draw the bit rein a little through the left hand, but not to pull or jerk the horse's mouth, which would make him rear or run back ; throw the reins over the back of the hand, put a lock of the mane into it, then seize the stirrup with the right hand, put the left foot into it as far as the ball, place the right hand on the cantle of the saddle, and wait there for the time from the front, looking steadily over the left shoulder ; next, raise the body up in the left stirrup, the right leg hanging by the left, as explained in dismounting, and remain steady ; then throw the right leg clear over the baggage, shift the right hand from the cantle to

the pommel, and let the body come lightly and easily into the saddle, placing the right foot as far as the ball into the stirrup, and then tying up the collars, the left hand is to be kept with the thumb upwards, and the nails to be turned towards the buttons of the waistcoat, opposite the head-band of the breeches. The position of the man on horseback ought to be as easy as possible; the head well up, breast out, shoulders well back and down, belly in, back hollow, elbows close to the body, left wrist a little turned in, the right hand easily down by the right thigh, the bearing upon the saddle ought neither to be entirely upon the backside, nor the belly, but between the two, that the upright position of the body may not be altered by the motion of the horse; the flat of the thighs well turned to the saddle, and the knees to be kept back; the legs are to be stretched well down, and not to wriggle about but be steady, sinking the heel a little, and the toe turned a little in, without stiffness; the calf of the leg should hang easily down by the horse's side, to be ready to give the proper aid when required, and the heels should be in an exact perpendicular with the shoulders. When the leg is stretched down, the most elegant and useful length for the stirrup is obtained by having

ing

ing the bottom of the iron just to touch the ankle bone. By a signal from the non-commissioned officer in front, the doubling files move up, and dress their ranks instantly by the center file of each rank.



OF PASSING IN PARADE AND SALUTING.

THE King, or reviewing officer, is to be received in front of the center of the line with swords drawn, ranks at open order, and the officers a horse's length before the front rank, saluting, and taking the time from the center officer, who is to be a horse's length before the standard.* The salute is done : first, by bringing the right hand up to the right shoulder, with the nails turned inwards, the right side of the blade flat to the front, and the sword perpendicular :—Second, the arm is to be straightened, the inside of the hand turned up and the point to be dropped by the horse's shoulder. The recovering from the salute is exactly the reverse of the above motions. Passing is then in parade ; the ranks are

* The trumpet on the right of the front rank, sounding the march.

to be closed, and the king, or reviewing officer, posting himself a considerable distance in front of the center of the line, the word.

“ *Subdivisions, to the Right Turn,*” is given.

“ *Leading Files to the Left Wheel;*

when the leading files come almost in a line with the reviewing officer,

“ *Subdivisions to the left Form.*”

*

“ FORWARD,”

is to be given, at which “ *Eyes are center,* till within ten or twelve yards of the reviewing officer, when

“ *Rear Rank, take Order.*”

“ *Eyes Right.*”

The officers who are still to be in front of the squadron, are to salute, taking the time from the right. When past and moving on at a walk

“ *Rear Rank, take Close Order.*”

“ *Eyes Center.*”

“ *Subdivisions to the Left Turn.*”

Having advanced a few yards in this manner,

“ *Subdivisions to the Rear Turn.*”

When come almost to the first ground from whence they advanced in parade,

“ *Sub-*

“ Subdivisions to the Left Turn.”

When come exactly upon the first ground of parade

“ Subdivisions to the Left Form.”

“ By the Center Halt.”

“ The Squadron will pass by half ranks at close order,”

“ MARCH.”

Marching past is now by half-ranks at Close Order, dressing to the right, the officers still in front of their respective half ranks, before the center files and saluting.* When the right half-rank advances, the left one is to occupy its ground by subdivisions to the right, and forming to the left. When the half ranks have passed, they are to go by subdivisions to the left, and to the rear in the same manner as when in squadron; but taking the word from the commanding officer of each half-rank. When the leading division comes in the line with its first ground of parade, it goes by subdivisions to the left; as also the second division, which is to join the first in a line of subdivisions, and when the leading files have come upon a line with the reviewing General, the commanding officer then gives

“ Subdivisions, to the Left Form.”

* The trumpet, six horses lengths in front of the center file of the leading quarter rank.

“ By the Center Halt.”

Passing may then be by ranks.

“ The Squadron will march past by ranks from the Right.”

“ MARCH.”

The rear rank is to follow the front one, the Captain goes as first file of the whole,* then the Cornet, the Lieutenant leads the rear-rank ; all the officers salute.† When the last file of the front rank is marching past, the leading file is to be halted, then by file after file doubling up to the left, halting by and dressing to the right, that rank is to be formed ; the rear-rank is to proceed in like manner and form at close order ; when this is done, the forming upon their first ground of inspection and exercise may be by column of quarter ranks.

“ Quarter Ranks, to the Left Wheel.”

“ MARCH.—Trot.”

Eyes are left. When the leading division has got to within the distance of a quarter rank of the ground, upon which the line was first formed, the commanding officer gives

* Except the trumpeter, who is to sound the march.

† The standard is never to drop but to the Royal Family.

“ Head

“ Head of the Column, to the Left Wheel.”

All the other divisions wheel when they come upon the same ground; dressing is to the left. The column is now to march upon its first alignment, at the interval of Quarter Ranks, till the leading one comes to the distance of its own front, from the original right of the line, when the word

“ HALT,” is given.

“ Quarter Ranks to the Left Wheel, and form the Line.—MARCH.”

“ By the Center Forward.”

“ Rear Rank, take Order.”

“ By the Center Halt.”

“ RETURN SWORDS.”*

In receiving the King, or reviewing General in front, and in all passings in parade, when swords are drawn, the trumpet is to sound the march.

Then follow the “Horse Evolutions,” which are the true rudiments of every military manœuvre, as no disposition whatever can be made, without putting some one of them into practice. At the word

* If the commanding officer wishes to dismount his men, this is as proper time as any, just after the parade business.

“ HORSE EVOLUTIONS,”*

the standard reins back and becomes the center file of the front rank; the other officers are to go upon the flanks, except the one appointed to lead the squadron. Dressing is immediately to be by the center of each rank, the two center men are occasionally to hold out their hands to make the dressing more correct, if there should be no standard; and when there is, the serjeant who covers it in the center of the rear-rank is to regulate the distance and dressing.

“ FORWARD,”

dressing by the center at a walk.

“ *Rear Rank, take Open Order.*”

By the rear-rank's going as slow as foot can fall, till the front rank has properly gained the distance, when that is done, then is given

1. “ *Left Half-ranks, to the Right double Files.*”

Upon which the right half-ranks incline a little to the left, and the left ditto to the right, so as exactly to cover the leading divisions, the distances between them are to be equal to a quarter rank, dressing is to the center of the half-ranks. The standard goes with the right half rank. When

* The trumpeter is then to ride with the commanding officer, to be ready if required to sound the advance, the retreat, the charge, or the halt.

they

they exactly cover, the commanding officer is instantly to give the word

“ FORWARD,” (still at a walk.)

2. “ *Left-Quarter-ranks, to the right double Files.*”

The standard goes with the right quarter-rank ; the quarter-ranks double and cover in the same manner as the half-ranks, only at the distance of a subdivision, when covering

“ FORWARD.”

3. “ *Quarter-ranks which doubled, form Half-ranks.*”

(*vice versa* as No. 2.)

“ FORWARD.”

4. “ *Half-ranks which doubled, form Squadron.*”

(*vice versa* as the Half-ranks doubling.)

“ FORWARD.”

5. “ *By two divisions, wheel about outwards.*”

The two right divisions, of front and rear-rank, wheel to the right-about, and the two left to the left-about, as in plate I. fig. 3.

“ TROT.”

They are to go a steady regular trot, no horse to gallop upon any account, dressing is to the center, that is by an officer, who going perfectly straight, is to regulate the pace and distance between the divisions. The standard goes with the right division.

6. “ *Wheel*

6. "*Wheel to the Proper Front.*"

They are to wheel round at a very gentle steady trot, taking particular care that the pace of each horse may be properly regulated according to his distance from the pivot-flank.*

" FORWARD,"

at a walk, dressing by the center of the squadron.

" *Rear-rank, take Order.*"

The rear rank dressing by its own center, trots briskly up to order; when they have got into a regular walk, exactly cover and dress, then is given

7. "*Quarter-ranks, to the right take Ground.*"

Each quarter rank immediately wheels to the right, dressing by the left, and properly dividing the distances. The standard goes with the second quarter-rank from the right.

" FORWARD."

8. "*Quarter-ranks to the left wheel, and form Squadron.*"

When the quarter ranks have wheeled to the left into line, the commanding officer gives the word

" FORWARD."

When dressing is by the center of the squadron.

" *Quarter-ranks to the left take Ground.*"

* Observe, that in all wheelings to the right, dressing is to the left; and *vice versa*, wheeling to the left, eyes are right.

Vice

Vice versa as to the *right*, and dressing is by right. The standard goes on the right flank of the second quarter rank from the left.

“ FORWARD.”

9. “ *Quarter-ranks, to the right wheel, and form Squadron.*” (*vice versa* as No. 8.)

10. “ *From the right of Quarter-ranks to the front File.*”

The right hand man of each quarter-rank, Nos. 1, 7, 13, 19, go straight out to the front, followed by the rest of the front men of that quarter rank, at a regular trot; the right hand men of each quarter-rank of the rear, advance as far as the front rank, and there wait till the last men of the front quarter-ranks go out, when the rear-rank is to follow in the same manner as the front, all the horses' shoulders are to be a little inclined to the right. The standard dashes out before No. 13, and in this movement acts as the right file of the third quarter-rank: When the whole is in file

“ WALK.” (Heads of files dress.)

11. “ *To the front form Squadron.*”

Numbers 1, 7, 13, 19, immediately halt, and the rest, file by file, trot up and form on the left of their leaders; the rear-rank forms up at the distance of order.

“ FORWARD.” (Dressing by the center.)

12. “ *From*

12. "*From the right of Quarter-ranks to the Rear File.*"

The right man of the rear-rank of each quarter-rank, leads straight to the rear, and is followed by the front quarter-ranks in file, the right hand men of each of which, turn their horses round, and wait to follow in file N^{os}. 6, 12, 18, and 23, of the rear-rank. The standard follows N^o. 12, of the front rank.

"TROT." (and cover well.)

When got to a sufficient distance to the rear,

"WALK."

13. "*To the left about Turn.*"

Each man singly turns his horse to the left about upon his own ground, and the whole to cover exactly.

"FORWARD." (at a walk.)

14. "*To the front form Squadron.*"

In the same manner as N^o. 11, by numbers 6, 12, 18, and 23, standing fast, and the others doubling up to the right of them ; the rear-rank at the distance of order.

"FORWARD." (by the center.)

15. "*From*

15. "*From the flanks of the Squadron by ranks to the rear File.*"

N^o. 1 turns to the right about, and 23 to the left about, and trot steadily by the outward flanks, straight to the rear, and each is to be followed by the front rank of their respective half-ranks; when numbers 1 and 23 of the front rank pass numbers 1 and 23 of the rear rank, 1 and 23 are immediately to follow the front rank in file, and exactly to cover it; this is done at a gentle trot. The standard goes with the right front half rank.

16. "*To the front form Squadron.*"

This is done by the leader, N^o. 1, turning his horse to the right about and halting, dressing to the left; the leader, N^o. 23, turns to the left about and halts, dressing to the right; the rest following N^o. 1, double round his rear, and form to his left, dressing to the right; those following 23 double round his rear, and form to his right, dressing to the left; the rear rank forms at the distance of *Order*, in the same manner as the front rank, round the outward flanks of the rear, N^{os}. 1, and 23; when the center man of the rear rank comes in, the word

" FORWARD "

is to be given, when the dressing of the whole is instantly to be by the center of the squadron.

“ *Rear rank, take close Order.*”

At a trot, dressing by its own center.

17 “ *From the flanks of the Squadron to the front File.*”

The standard goes in the rear of the right half rank; N^{os}. 1, and N^{os}. 23, of front and rear-rank trot steadily out to the front, dressing the heads of files exactly; the right half rank, when the above word is given, incline their horses' shoulders to the right, and the left half rank to the left, and there wait till their turn comes to file.*

18. “ *To the front form Squadron.*”

By the right half rank trotting briskly up, and forming *by* the right, *to* the left of N^o. 1; and *to vice versa* the left half rank.

“ FORWARD.”

Dressing instantly to the center of the squadron.

19. “ *From the flanks of the Squadron to the rear File.*”

* In all these filings, &c. the movement is always to be made at right angles, upon the ground occupied by N^{os}. 1, and 23, of the front rank.

N^{os}.

N^{os}. 1, and 23, turn about and trot straight to the rear, accompanied by their covering files of the rear rank, followed and perfectly covered by their respective half ranks.

20 “ *To the front form Squadron.*”

by doubling round the outward flanks, and dressing in by their own flank leaders (at close order.)

“ FORWARD.” (by the center.)

21 “ *From the center of the Squadron to the front File.*”

(which will put the squadron in a column of fours from the center, except the two leading ranks, which will have five in each; namely, in the first, the Cornet carrying the standard between the four leading men, and the non-commissioned officer covering him in the rank close behind him.) This movement is exactly contrary to filing from the outward flanks to the front, being from the inward flanks of each half rank to the front, and consequently forming a column of 4's, when the whole column covers, the word

22. “ *By two's wheel outwards.*”

is given. The standard keeps with the leading files of the right half rank; the leading files of the right half rank, wheel at a right angle to their former

former front of march, and go straight ; the leading files of the left half rank go in the same manner to the left, and when the leading files are apart, the exact distance of the front of a squadron, the officer commanding gives the word

23. "*Retreat.*"

The leading files of the right half rank wheel again sharp to the right, and go straight to the rear ; the left half rank in like manner goes to the left ; when the whole has sufficiently filed to the rear

24. "*Wheel Inwards.*"

The right half rank wheels again to the right, the left to the left, and when met

25. "*Advance.*"

They then come to the front, as in the beginning of this movement, and when arrived at their proper ground

26. "*To the front form Squadron.*"

The leading files halt, and the right half rank dashes away by files to the right, halts and dresses by the left ; the left half rank *vice versa*.

27. "*Squadron, to the right Wheel.*"

Dressing to the left ; when wheeled,

" FORWARD."

“ FORWARD.”

28. “ *Squadron, to the right Wheel.*”

When wheeled “ FORWARD.”

29. “ *Squadron, to the right about Wheel.*”

When wheeled “ FORWARD.”

“ *Squadron to the left Wheel.*”

Dressing by the right.—When wheeled

“ FORWARD.”

“ *Squadron to the left Wheel.*”

When wheeled, “ FORWARD.”

“ *Squadron to the left Wheel.*”

When wheeled, “ FORWARD.”

“ *Squadron, to the left about Wheel.*”

When wheeled

“ *By the center, “ HALT.”**

Though the foregoing evolutions may appear rather numerous, they will not by any means be found difficult, as one movement very materially assists the other ; they are remarkably useful, as

* At the finishing of any review or field day, the line is always to be advanced a few paces, with swords drawn, the ranks at order, the officers in front, and when halted saluting, and the trumpeter again on the right of the front rank, sounding the march.

any one of them can be put into practice, when the nature of the ground may require it, such as in passing defiles; woods, rocks, marshes, ponds, &c. &c.

All leading divisions, and files of any column or line of march, should go the pace ordered, with the greatest exactness, for if they vary in the least, they will derange the whole; an inch improperly gained in the front, will make the rear gallop and hurry exceedingly: The same in dressing, if the men who are near the point to be dressed to, do not most exactly occupy their places, they will throw the farthest part many yards before or behind its proper station. Every man will be able to dress well, by just seeing the lower part of the face of the man next but one to him, and this must be done without poking the head forward, or altering the body from its proper position. The charge ought to be made by dressing to the center, that the ranks may obtain a proper degree of solidity, and not open out, as would be the case if they dressed to any other point; the center, if any thing, should rather have the lead, as in halting, it should become instantly fixed, and the flanks would naturally dress up to it; besides, the center ought to be able to sustain the greatest shock, which by being

ing in that form it will be enabled to do, but if the flanks were forward, and the center back, the least force would break through, and put the whole squadron to the rout. The sizing of the squadron is to be done from the flanks to the center, by the smallest men and horses being in the center, keeping the form above described, will serve most materially to make up for their deficiency in point of weight, the strongest men being upon the flanks will prevent them from being turned. When it is intended that a charge should be made, the commanding officer is to be one horse's length in front of the center file, which is at that distance to follow him exactly; he is to take particular care to go perfectly straight, and the manner of doing this is as follows, and ought constantly to be observed by all leading divisions, files, &c. &c.

Let him take two objects at a distance, in a line with one another, himself being the third point, then let him advance, so that the farthest object is to be covered by the nearest, and by that means he will always go straight.

“ MARCH.” (at a walk.)

“ TROT.” (without hurrying.)

“ GALLOP.” (a steady canter.)

D 2

“ CHARGE.”

“ CHARGE.”

For about 100 yards as fast as the slowest horse in the troop can go.

“ HALT.”

At the word “ HALT,” every man is to raise his bridle hand, drop his legs to the horse’s sides, incline his body well back, and stop his horse on his haunches. The halt is always to be made to the center, and when dressed “ EYES RIGHT.”

“ MARCHING IN FRONT.”

When a squadron marches in front, the leading officer is answerable for the line being preserved, and for the pace at which he conducts it, therefore the standard, or center file is, to keep invariably one horse’s length from the leading officer; each horse must be placed perfectly straight to the front, otherwise the squadron can never move justly, the ranks cannot be dressed, or the proper distance of files preserved.

INCLINING,

Is gaining ground to the flanks, as well as to the front, taking that direction without wheeling, or altering the front of the squadron. At the word

“ INCLINE,”

each man is to make a half face with his horse to the
the

the hand ordered ; by which means each will be half a head behind his flank leader. At the word

“ FRONT,”

each man turns his horse to the front and goes straight. At no time of the incline, ought the former front of the squadron, or distance of files to be lost.

When the troop is in parade, either moving or standing still, and the ranks at order (except in the evolutions) the officers are to be one horse's length before the front rank, the standard opposite the center file, and the sergeant who covers it, to move up into its place in the front rank, the Captain before the third file from the right, and the Lieutenant before the third file from the left ; but when the Captain goes into the front to command, the Lieutenant is to shift to the right to the Captain's place. In the evolutions, the standard is to be in the ranks, and the Lieutenant is to lead the squadron, before the center file, when the Captain (as commanding officer) is in front, and steady sergeants must be on the flanks.

When several troops assemble, the senior Captain will have the command of the whole ; each of the other Captains is to lead his own troop, and the Lieutenant is to be on the outward flank, and

and in the front rank ; if there is no standard, the Cornet's place is the left flank, or the reverse of that of the Lieutenant.



OF DOUBLE FILES.

MARCHING by double files is one of the most useful things practised. Without altering the line of march, or stopping to make a change, this manœuvre can be executed with the greatest ease : Fig. 1, plate II, explains marching to the right by double files ; fig. 2, plate II, shews the manner of marching to the left by ditto. I have taken the liberty of marking by figures the movement of double files, in plate II, as being the easiest way of explaining the situations of the different individuals in the front and rear ranks. Figure 4, plate II, shews the manner of forming 4 deep while marching ; and figure 5 in the same plate, the method of reducing them to 2's again.

Figure 5, plate I, explains

“ By the Right to the Rear countermarch.”

Vice versa to the left.

Figure

Figure 3, plate II, points out

“ From the Flanks, by the Center, to the Rear File.”

The manner of forming again is by 2's, wheeling outwards, and when the flank leaders have gained their distance, they turn their horses to the front and halt; the four last men go quite through the rank, turn to the right and left about outwards, come up into their places, dressing to the standing flanks; when this is done

“ EYES RIGHT.”



O F C O L U M N S.

A Column is any number of distinct bodies, marching behind each other; when there are distances between each, it is called the open or extended column; when there is only the distance of a horse's length between the divisions, it is called the close column; when as close as possible, the solid column.

Figure 6, plate II, represents a close column of quarter ranks, formed to the right upon N°. 1; number 1 in front (which stands fast) by N^{os}.

2, 3,

2, 3, and 4, filing to the right, forming to the left, and covering exactly at the distance of a horse's length.

Figure 7, plate II, is the reducing of the above column into line upon N°. 2, which stands fast; numbers 3, and 4, file to the left, form to, halt and dress by the right; number 1 files to the right, forms to, halts and dresses by the left; the

EYES CENTER.

Figure 8, plate II, is a close column upon the third quarter rank, which is to stand fast; number 1 in front; 1, and 2, are to file to the left and form to the right; 4, files to the right and forms to the left; the flanks of the whole are to cover.

Figure 9, plate II, is changing the front, and forming the line from close column to the right upon N°. 1; N°. 1, wheels to the right, halts and remains dressed to the left; numbers 2, 3 and 4, keep marching straight along the rear of 1; when 2 comes to the left flank of 1, it wheels to the right, and when wheeled, dresses by the right; 3, and 4, form in the same manner as 2; when the whole have formed the line upon N°. 1, dressing is by the center of the squadron.

Figure 10, plate II, represents a column of quarter ranks, formed upon N°. 4, which stands
fast;

fast; N°. 1 in front; the other three divisions keep advancing till they have gained the distance of open column, (equal to the front of a division) dressing is by the left.

“ COLUMN HALT.”

“ *Quarter Ranks, to the left Wheel, and form the Line*”

Which when done,

“ EYES CENTER.”

In like manner any column may be formed, and reduced to the flanks, front, or rear, upon any division whatever.

No horse should be under fifteen hands high, or if possible above fifteen hands two inches, as that size will be found by much the most serviceable, being best calculated for the business and fatigue of a light dragoon.

Particular attention should be payed to all the horses, to make them stand fire; they ought never to be fired from till they stand perfectly steady in hand when a man in front fires his pistol. No horse ought ever to be flurried, or obliged to do any thing by force, as that will entirely overcome the admirable courage and spirit so distinguishable in that noble, animal, and render him from timidity

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unfit

unfit for any thing. Patience and coolness of manner may bring a horse to perform wonders, but agreeable to the old saying, "as Rome was not built in a day," neither is the horse foaled with every information, by instinct, to suit the different fancies of his future riders.

The safest method of bringing horses to stand fire, is found in Lord Pembroke's treatise on military equitation : He recommends at feeding times to fire a pistol out of doors ; when the horse is quiet to that, lay the pistol after it has been fired into the manger, and the horse will by degrees grow familiar to its appearance, and the smell of the powder, then it may be cocked and snapped in different parts of the stable, till at last it may be done before and all round him ; afterwards lead him out of the stable, and at some distance from him blow up a little gunpowder, and continue that till he will go quietly up to it ; he may then be mounted, when the pistol should be presented and snapped in different directions, to accustom him to the sight of it ; then a flash in the pan, afterwards some loose powder in it, and so on by degrees till it may be fired with its proper charge. If the horse should ever be singed or burnt, he will never afterwards stand fire, and
by

by his rearing and fidgeting will always derange the whole squadron.

The practice of firing pistols may be done at DOUBLE OPEN FILES, (viz. the distance of one horse's length from boot top to boot top; open files being equal to the breadth of one horse and his rider, from boot top to boot top) as that at first will not so much alarm the horses; the rear rank may turn to the right about and fire to the rear, which will be a means of preventing any confusion or accidents.

A military horse should also be trained to leap hedges, ditches and rails, likewise to pass and leap over dead horses, &c. &c. that he may be accustomed to whatever object might present itself.

No grey horse or stallion ought ever to be rode in the ranks; the former by its conspicuous colour being liable to draw, and be picked out by the enemy's fire; the latter must ever be troublesome, unsteady and dangerous, where mares so frequently are near them, (mares being allowed in these troops) also in any ambuscade or concealed march, the neighing of a stone-horse would discover and expose the whole.

